# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2430
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2016
Trade Agreements
Maragatham Smt. K.

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether there were some suggestions during a recent consultation conducted by the Commerce Department that the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement was not as extensive as the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement where twelve areas were included compared to eight for the largest trade bloc, RCEP;
(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
(c) whether there were also suggestions that the Government could not contemplate an agreement with the United States to counter the impact of TPP and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(d) whether a negative list which was prepared some years ago was inadequate and if so, the details thereof; and
(e) whether there are high stakes in Free Trade Agreements and if so, the precautionary measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

a) to (b): No Madam, there was no such suggestions. The proposed Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement contains 30 Chapters and is between 12 countries namely Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand Peru, Singapore, United States and Vietnam. However, the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) covers 16 countries which include the ten countries of ASEAN namely Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and their six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners namely Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. The negotiations under RCEP covers the areas of goods, services, investment, intellectual property, electronic commerce, competition as well as economic and technical cooperation.

c) to d) No Madam, there are no such suggestions and no negative list was prepared for RCEP. The initial offers for Trade in Goods was submitted during November, 2015.

e) In order to protect the interest of the domestic industry, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) provide for maintaining sensitive/negative lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted under the FTA. In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to the measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards.
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